

Extremities Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

The play is set between Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey, specifically a little more rural part of the area as the farmhouse is on a cornfield. The time is most likely the early 1980s of September, but could also be read between 1980s to late 1990s, even early 2000s, since the play just labels the time as “present” time. There are only four people throughout the play: Marjorie, a beautiful Caucasian lady who lounges around in a robe, Raul, her stalker and almost-rapist, Terry and Patricia, Marjorie’s roommates. Raul attacks Marjorie in her home, but she later turns the table on him and keeps him bound inside the fireplace. The play focuses on the definition of rape and how the justice system handles sexual assault cases, as well as the definition of justice itself and equality.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

Marjorie telling Patricia to call for the police, no siren, no light.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

Raul attacks Marjorie, but instead of his plan going out the way he wanted it to, Marjorie turns it around him and douses him with ammonia in her fireplace.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Who will be convicted in the end? Raul for breaking in and almost raping Marjorie, or Marjorie who served her version of cold-blooded justice towards Raul?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

Only Raul and Marjorie know that she’s been having an affair with Tony, Terry’s boyfriend. They’re both the only ones who know that Raul tried to rape Marjorie, since the others don’t quite believe her.

Everyone knows that Marjorie has tortured Raul.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatrical moment is probably the ending scene, actually, when Marjorie tells Patricia to go call the police and Raul asks if he can say her name, and when Marjorie says yes, he asks her if he can go back into the fireplace, after thanking her profusely he starts to sing a song about finding a peanut and cracking it open softly, and Marjorie is shown weeping in the back. I think this scene is important because it slows the play from its animalistic opening scene to this quiet, slow one where there's a sense of sadness to it. Almost like you're not sure who to root for anymore since they're both just sad.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Sexual Assault, Justice, Racism, Coping Mechanism, Savagery

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Raul wants freedom, but obviously Marjorie stands in his way. Marjorie wants Raul to be brought to justice, but she knows that since he has not fully raped her, he will be let go by the police, especially since he can lie about everything else. Patricia wants to call the police, but Marjorie and Terry both tell her that the justice system is useless when it comes to sexual assault towards women.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

The fireplace is definitely a big image in the play, because it cages Raul in from the rest. The fireplace is meant for warmth and gathering, but it is used to isolate a man from the rest of the people. Not only that, the title also helps tell us that Marjorie is pushing an extreme in doling out her version of justice on Raul. She also does not refer to him by his name at a certain point, telling the others to just call him an animal.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

Raul seems to be tired of the women in his family, and by women in general. He seems to be tired of being bossed around and given mouth by women around

him. Patricia and Terry both have problems with Marjorie, and she does with them as well, but they all band together in the end for Marjorie's "problem," aka Raul. Terry does not like that Marjorie seems to be coy with men, having an affair with her boyfriend, Tony, while Patricia does not like seeing how cruel Marjorie is being to Raul.